

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-2, 5-6, and 9-10 are currently pending. Claims 1, 5, and 9, which are independent, are hereby amended. No new matter has been introduced. Support for this amendment can be found throughout the Specification as originally filed. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,643,702 to Yeung (hereinafter, merely "Yeung") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,636,922 to Bastiani et al. (hereinafter, merely "Bastiani"), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,728,244 to Takabatake (hereinafter, merely "Takabatake") and U.S. Patent No. 6,693,915 to Lappetelainen et al. (hereinafter, merely "Lappetelainen").

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“...determining means for determining, according to the destination information, whether a node serving as a destination of the data is connected to the second bus;

wherein, when the determining means determines that the node is not connected, a data transmission source receives a predetermined error information signal,

wherein the predetermined error information signal prevents retransmission...”(Emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, Yeung relates to a method for initializing an eligibility bit map and determining whether at least one eligible route has required resources available.

As understood by Applicants, Bastiani relates to a host controller for enabling communication between a host computer and a device over a serial link.

As understood by Applicants, Takabatake relates to a communication node for enabling internetworking of a first network in which data transfer is based on a combination of request and response and a second network in which data transfer is not based on a combination of request and response.

As understood by Applicants, Lappetelainen relates to efficient bandwidth allocation for a high speed wireless data transmission system.

Applicants respectfully submit that nothing has been found in Yeung, Bastiani, Takabatake or Lappetelainen, taken alone or in combination, that would teach or suggest the above-identified features of claim 1.

Specifically, Yeung, Bastiani, Takabatake or Lappetelainen, taken alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest determining means for determining, according to the destination information, whether a node serving as a destination of the data is connected to the

second bus, wherein, when the determining means determines that the node is not connected, a data transmission source receives a predetermined error information signal, wherein the predetermined error information signal prevents retransmission, as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is patentable.

For reasons similar to, or somewhat similar to, those described above with regard to independent claim 1, independent claims 5 and 9 are also patentable.

III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims are each dependent from one of the independent claims, discussed above, and are therefore patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

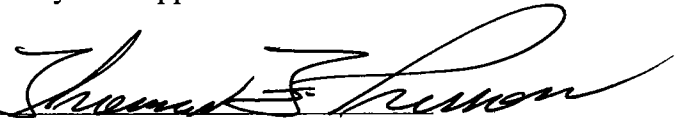
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In view of the foregoing remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are in condition for allowance and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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